

SEPTEMBER 18, 1978

MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL
(VOICED PIECE AND INSERT IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

THE MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL, A SHOWCASE OF TRADITIONAL AMERICAN JAZZ, MARKED ITS TWENTY FIRST YEAR THIS PAST WEEKEND (16-17 SEPT). VOA'S WEST COAST CORRESPONDENT RAY KABAKER WAS IN THE AUDIENCE AND SENT US THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE:

MONTEREY IS THE COASTAL TOWN IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA THAT JOHN STEINBECK MADE FAMOUS WITH HIS NOVEL, "CANNERY ROW." THE FISH-PROCESSING FACTORIES ARE STILL THERE, ALTHOUGH THE DOCKS AND MARINAS SEEM TO SHOW MORE SAILBOATS AND SPORT FISHING THAN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY. THE WATERFRONT STREETS ARE NEAT AND PICTURESQUE AS POSTCARDS AND A SHORT DRIVE ALONG THE COAST TAKES A VISITOR PAST SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SHORELINE SCENERY ANYWHERE, LARGELY UNDISTURBED BEACHES AND LOW ROCKY CLIFFS. IN THE ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENTS FOLLOWING WORLD WAR TWO, THE CITY FATHERS OF MONTEREY DECIDED ON TOURISM AS A PRIMARY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE AND THE ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL FITS IN COMFORTABLY WITH THIS PROJECT. FOR TWENTY ONE YEARS, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN COMING HERE THE FIRST WEEKEND AFTER THE SEPTEMBER LABOR DAY HOLIDAY TO LISTEN TO OPEN AIR CONCERTS IN THE MAIN ARENA OF THE MONTEREY FAIRGROUND. IT'S A PLEASANT PLACE WITH A BROAD GRASS FAIRWAY FOR FOOD BOOTHS AND DOZENS OF STALLS FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS MERCHANDISE, COTTAGE INDUSTRY LEATHER GOODS, JEWELRY, POTTERY, AND SO ON. THE MUSIC BY AND LARGE HAS REMAINED TRADITIONAL, ONLY A RELUCTANT NOD TO ROCK AND ROLL THROUGH THE YEARS. ALTHOUGH THE JAZZ SCENE TODAY ISN'T COMPLETE WITHOUT THAT AMPLIFIED ELECTRIC GUITAR AND ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD INSTRUMENT, THE SOUND SYSTEM AT MONTEREY CARRIES THE MUSIC WELL BEYOND THE LAST ROWS OF FOLDING CHAIRS FOR

VOICE: (CONT'D)

AN AUDIENCE OF SEVEN THOUSAND PEOPLE. (OPT) MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE FANS RETURNING FROM PREVIOUS YEARS, IN A KIND OF TRADITIONAL REUNION. THEY BRING BLANKETS AND PILLOWS, FOOD BASKETS AND DRINKS, INCLUDING HARD LIQUOR. A POPULAR SPECIALITY IS A LITTLE BLACK BOX THAT HINGES OPEN TO REVEAL A COMPACT BAR SET, GLASSES MIXING HARDWARE AND WHISKEY. BUT THEY COME MAINLY TO LISTEN TO THE MUSIC. (END OPT) THERE ARE FIVE SEPARATE CONCERTS BEGINNING FRIDAY NIGHT. SATURDAY AFTERNOON IS DEVOTED TO THE BLUES, THE OLDEST JAZZ FORM. AND SUNDAY AFTERNOON GOES TO THE NEWEST OR AT LEAST THE YOUNGEST MUSICIANS. THAT'S WHEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE THE STAGE, OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS CHOSEN FROM AWARD WINNING HIGH SCHOOL BANDS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. THEY REHEARSE FOR SEVERAL DAYS AS A GROUP, THEN PLAY THE SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT WITH SPECIAL ORCHESTRATION, SOMETIMES INCLUDING ORIGINAL WORK COMPOSED BY ONE OF THE STUDENTS. AND THEY ACCOMPANY A STAR INSTRUMENTALIST, FOR EXAMPLE, THAD JONES, THE TRUMPET PLAYER THIS YEAR, AND KENNY BURRELL, THE GUITARIST. THE IDEA FOR THIS SHOWCASE OF YOUNG AND DEVELOPING TALENT GROWS OUT OF THE CONVICTION OF JIMMY LYONS, THE SAN FRANCISCO JAZZ PERSONALITY WHO FOUNDED THE FESTIVAL AND SERVES AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES. HE THINKS THE CONTINUED VITALITY OF JAZZ LIES IN THE SCHOOL.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- LYONS

"I GREW UP IN THE BIG BAND ERA AND I HAVE FOR ALL OF MY LIFE BEEN A COMPLETE NUT, WILDLY IN LOVE WITH THE BIG BAND AS SUCH. AND I HAVE MET THEM ALL I THINK, AND I HAVE KNOWN THEM ALL, AND ITS BEEN A PLEASURE TO HAVE WORKED WITH THEM ON VARIOUS DIFFERENT SETTINGS AND DIFFERENT AREAS OVER THE MANY YEARS THAT I HAVE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS, AND A FEW OF THEM ARE STILL AROUND THANK GOODNESS, AND THERE ARE MORE COMING UP. I THINK THE MAJOR THRUST NOW IS IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES, IN THE COLLEGES, BECAUSE JAZZ EDUCATION IS A GROWING THING, MUSHROOMING IN FACT.

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FIFTIES. THEY RECENTLY GOT TOGETHER AFTER SEVENTEEN YEARS OF INACTIVITY TO MAKE AN ALBUM IN GERMANY AND THIS WAS THEIR FIRST CONCERT SINCE THE GROUP WAS REFORMED. THERE WAS A LOT OF WELL GROOMED GREY HAIR IN THE HIGH-LOW APPEARANCE BUT THAT IS A BIG PART OF THE MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL.

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RK/RD